

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	8:07CR139
vs.)	
)	PRELIMINARY ORDER
MANUEL MELGAR-MORALES,)	OF FORFEITURE
)	
Defendant.)	

This matter is before the Court on the United States' Motion for Issuance of Preliminary Order of Forfeiture and Memorandum Brief (Filing No. 19). The Court reviews the record in this case and, being duly advised in the premises, finds as follows:

1. The Defendant has entered into a Plea Agreement, whereby he has agreed to plead guilty to Counts I and II of said Information. Count I of said Information charges the Defendant with being an alien in possession of ammunition, a violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(5). Count II of said Indictment charges the Defendant with using a Ruger P85 9mm pistol with ammunition on the basis it was a firearm involved or used in the knowing commission of the offense charged in Count I.

2. By virtue of said plea of guilty, the Defendant forfeits his interest in the subject property, and the United States should be entitled to possession of said property, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 924(d) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c).

IT IS ORDERED:

A. The United States' Motion for Issuance of Preliminary Order of Forfeiture (Filing No. 19) is hereby sustained.

B. Based upon Count II of the Information and the Defendant's plea of guilty, the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement for the District of Nebraska ("ICE") is hereby authorized to seize the Ruger P85 9mm pistol with ammunition.

C. The Defendant's interest in said property is hereby forfeited to the United States of America for disposition in accordance with the law, subject to the provisions of 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(1).

D. The aforementioned forfeited property is to be held by ICE in its secure custody and control.

E. Pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(n)(1), ICE forthwith shall publish at least once for three successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation, in the county where the subject property are situated, notice of this Order, notice of ICE's intent to dispose of the property in such manner as the Attorney General may direct, and notice that any person, other than the Defendant, having or claiming a legal interest in any of the subject forfeited property must file a Petition with the court within thirty (30) days of the final publication of notice or of receipt of actual notice, whichever is earlier.

F. Said published notice shall state the Petition referred to in Paragraph E., above, shall be for a hearing to adjudicate the validity of the Petitioner's alleged interest in the property, shall be signed by the Petitioner under penalty of perjury, and shall set forth the nature and extent of the Petitioner's right, title or interest in the subject property and any additional facts supporting the Petitioner's claim and the relief sought.

G. The United States may also, to the extent practicable, provide direct written notice to any person known to have alleged an interest in the property subject to this Order as a substitute for published notice as to those persons so notified.

H. Upon adjudication of all third-party interests, this Court will enter a Final Order of Forfeiture pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(n), in which all interests will be addressed.

DATED this 11th day of July, 2007.

BY THE COURT:

s/Laurie Smith Camp
United States District Judge